United Nations A/63/631

General Assembly

Distr.: General
19 December 2008

Original: English

Sixty-third session
Agenda item 104 (b)
Elections to fill vacancies in subsidiary organs and other elections: election of seven members of the Organizational Committee of the Peacebuilding Commission

Letter dated 19 December 2008 from the Permanent Representative of Ghana to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to refer to my letter dated 10 July 2008, confirming the consensus reached among the top ten troop-contributing countries that the following five Member States will represent the troop-contributing country category on the Organizational Committee of the Peacebuilding Commission during the third session of the Commission, namely, Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Nigeria and Pakistan.

It is now my understanding that the question of the allocation of regional seats in the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council in respect of the membership of the Organizational Committee has been resolved, thus paving the way for the election of new members from the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council by Monday, 22 December 2008. This, therefore, comes to inform you that it has been decided that the terms of the aforementioned five countries from the troop-contributing country category of membership will be from 1 January 2009 until 31 December 2010.

(*Signed*) Leslie K. **Christian**
Ambassador and Permanent Representative
(Troop-contributing countries facilitator)

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United Nations A/63/632

General Assembly

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19 December 2008

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Sixty-third session
Agenda item 104 (b)
Elections to fill vacancies in subsidiary organs and other elections: election of seven members of the Organizational Committee of the Peacebuilding Commission

Letter dated 18 December 2008 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the United States Mission to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

It is my pleasure as the facilitator of the group of the leading financial contributors to inform you that the group has decided to extend the term that its five members (Canada, Germany, Japan, the Netherlands and Sweden) will serve on the Peacebuilding Commission by six months, from 23 June 2010 to 31 December 2010. This will harmonize the terms of all elected groups constituting the membership of the Commission, assuring that future third term members (2011-2012) of the Commission will have the same starting and expiration dates of their terms of office.

I have conveyed the same information to the President of the General Assembly, the President of the Security Council and the President of the Economic and Social Council.

(*Signed*) Alejandro D. Wolff
Ambassador

08-66399 (E) 191208

United Nations A/63/633

General Assembly

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19 December 2008

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Sixty-third session
Agenda item 3 (b)

Credentials of representatives to the sixty-third session of the General Assembly

Report of the Credentials Committee

Chairman: Mr. Charles Thembani **Ntwaagae** (Botswana)

1. At its 1st plenary meeting, on 16 September 2008, the General Assembly, in accordance with rule 28 of its rules of procedure, appointed a Credentials Committee for its sixty-third session consisting of the following Member States: Botswana, China, Cyprus, Luxembourg, Mexico, Mozambique, the Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, and the United States of America.

2. The Credentials Committee held its meeting on 19 December 2008.

3. Mr. Ntwaagae (Botswana) was unanimously elected Chairman.

4. The Committee had before it a memorandum by the Secretary-General dated 19 December 2008, concerning the credentials of representatives of Member States to the sixty-third regular session of the General Assembly.

5. As indicated in paragraph 1 of the memorandum of the Secretary-General, formal credentials in the form required by rule 27 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly had been submitted by the following 124 Member States in respect of their representatives to the sixty-third session of the General Assembly: Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burundi, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Dominica, Ecuador, Egypt, Eritrea, Finland, France, Germany, Ghana, Grenada, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, Netherlands, New

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Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Yemen and Zimbabwe.

6. As indicated in paragraph 2 of the Secretary-General's memorandum, information concerning the appointment of their representatives to the sixty-third session of the General Assembly had been communicated to the Secretary-General, by means of a facsimile communication from the Head of State or Government or Minister for Foreign Affairs or by means of a letter or note verbale from the Permanent Mission concerned, by the following 67 Member States: Afghanistan, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Barbados, Belgium, Belize, Botswana, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Canada, Chad, Colombia, Comoros, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Greece, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, India, Iraq, Ireland, Kenya, Kiribati, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Marshall Islands, Malaysia, Mauritania, Mauritius, Moldova, Niger, Nigeria, Palau, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Rwanda, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Sierra Leone, Solomon Islands, Somalia, Sudan, Swaziland, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Thailand, Tonga, Tuvalu, Uganda, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, Vanuatu, Viet Nam and Zambia.

7. As indicated in paragraph 3 of the Secretary-General's memorandum, the following Member State had not made any communication to the Secretary-General: Guinea.

8. The Chairman proposed the following draft resolution for adoption by the Committee:

> "*The Credentials Committee*,
>
> "*Having examined* the credentials of the representatives to the sixty-third session of the General Assembly of the Member States referred to in paragraphs 5 and 6 of the report of the Credentials Committee,
>
> "*Accepts* the credentials of the representatives of the Member States concerned."

9. The draft resolution proposed by the Chairman was adopted without a vote.

10. The Chairman then proposed that the Committee recommend to the General Assembly the adoption of a draft resolution entitled "Credentials of representatives to the sixty-third session of the General Assembly" (see para. 12 below). The proposal was adopted without a vote.

11. In the light of the foregoing, the present report is submitted to the General Assembly.

Recommendation of the Credentials Committee

12. The Credentials Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

> Credentials of representatives to the sixty-third session of the General Assembly
>
> *The General Assembly*,
>
> *Having considered* the report of the Credentials Committee and the recommendation contained therein,
>
> *Approves* the report of the Credentials Committee.

United Nations A/63/634

General Assembly

Distr.: General
22 December 2008

Original: English

Sixty-third session
Agenda items 95 and 114 (t)

Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty

Cooperation between the United Nations and the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization

Letter dated 19 December 2008 from the Permanent Representatives of Australia, Austria, Canada, Costa Rica, Finland, Japan and the Netherlands to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

We have the honour to forward to you the Joint Ministerial Statement on the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, which was launched on 24 September 2008 in New York (see annex). It is our pleasure to inform you that as of 12 December 2008, 96 countries have associated themselves with the Joint Statement. We would be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly at its sixty-third session, under agenda items 95 and 114 (t).

(*Signed*) Robert **Hill**
Permanent Representative of Australia to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Thomas **Mayr-Harting**
Permanent Representative of Austria to the United Nations

(*Signed*) John **McNee**
Permanent Representative of Canada to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Jorge **Urbina**
Permanent Representative of Costa Rica to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Kirsti **Lintonen**
Permanent Representative of Finland to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Yukio **Takasu**
Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Frank **Majoor**
Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the United Nations

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Annex to the letter dated 19 December 2008 from the Permanent Representatives of Australia, Austria, Canada, Costa Rica, Finland, Japan and the Netherlands to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Joint Ministerial Statement on the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty

24 September 2008
New York

1. We, the Foreign Ministers who have issued this statement, reaffirm our strong support for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT), which would rid the world of nuclear weapons test explosions and would contribute to nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation.

2. In this year marking the 12th anniversary of the Treaty's opening for signature, we emphasize that the CTBT is a major instrument in the field of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. The Treaty was an integral part of the 1995 agreements by the States parties to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) allowing the indefinite extension of the Treaty. The early entry into force of the CTBT was recognized at the 2000 Review Conference of the NPT as a practical step to achieving NPT nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation objectives, and has also been reaffirmed as being of central importance by the UN General Assembly.

3. We recall the Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, that adopted in September 2007 a declaration by consensus outlining measures consistent with international law to encourage further signature and ratification of the Treaty.

4. We affirm that the CTBT will make an important contribution by constraining the development and qualitative improvement of nuclear weapons and ending the development of advanced new types of nuclear weapons, as well as preventing the proliferation of nuclear weapons in all its aspects. The entry into force of the Treaty is vital to the broader framework of multilateral disarmament and non-proliferation efforts. Progress on this issue would also contribute to a positive outcome of the 2010 Review Conference of the NPT.

5. We welcome that the CTBT has achieved near universal adherence with signature by 179 States and ratification by 144 States as of today. Of the 44 States whose ratification is necessary for the entry into force of the Treaty, nine have yet to do so. We welcome the four ratifications that have occurred since the entry into force conference last year, in particular that of Colombia, one of the states whose ratification is necessary for the entry into force of the Treaty. We call upon all States that have not yet done so to sign and ratify the Treaty without delay, in particular those whose ratification is needed for its entry into force. We recognise the extensive range of bilateral and joint outreach efforts by signatories and

ratifiers to encourage and assist States which have not yet signed and ratified the Treaty. We commit ourselves individually and together to make the Treaty a focus of attention at the highest political levels and to take measures to facilitate the signature and ratification process. We support the efforts by the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization to facilitate such process by providing legal and technical information and advice.

6. We call upon all States to continue a moratorium on nuclear weapon test explosions or any other nuclear explosions. Voluntary adherence to such a moratorium is a welcome step, but does not have the same permanent and legally binding effect as the entry into force of the Treaty. We reaffirm our commitment to the Treaty's basic obligations and call on all States to refrain from acts which would defeat the object and purpose of the Treaty pending its entry into force. With respect to the nuclear test announced by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on 9 October 2006, bearing in mind UNGA Res 61/104, we underline the need for a peaceful solution of the nuclear issues through successful implementation of the Six Party Talks Joint Statement of September 2005 and we urge the DPRK to fulfil its commitments therein and to fully comply with Security Council resolutions 1695 and 1718. We note that the verification regime successfully detected the aforementioned event and believe that it highlighted the urgent need for the early entry into force of the Treaty.

7. We welcome the progress made in building up all elements of the verification regime, which shall be capable of verifying compliance with the Treaty at its entry into force. We will provide the support required to complete and operate the verification regime in the most efficient and cost-effective way. We will also promote technical cooperation to enhance verification capabilities under the CTBT.

8. In addition to its primary function, the CTBT International Monitoring System as part of the verification regime is bringing scientific and civil benefits, including for tsunami warning systems and possibly other disaster alert systems, through civil and scientific applications of waveform and radionuclide technologies and use of the data. We will continue to seek ways to ensure that these benefits will be broadly shared by the international community in conformity with the Treaty.

9. We appeal to all States to make maximum efforts towards achieving the early entry into force of the CTBT. On our part we dedicate ourselves to realizing this goal.

Albania	Algeria
Andorra	Argentina
Armenia	Australia
Austria	Azerbaijan
Bahrain	Bangladesh

Belarus
Belgium
Benin
Bolivia
Bosnia and Herzegovina
Brazil
Bulgaria
Burkina Faso
Cambodia
Canada
Chile
Cook Islands
Costa Rica
Cote d'Ivoire
Croatia
Cyprus
Czech Republic
Denmark
Ecuador
Estonia
Finland
France
Germany
Greece
Guyana
Holy See
Hungary
Iceland
Iraq
Ireland
Italy
Jamaica
Japan
Kazakhstan
Kiribati
Kuwait
Lao People's Democratic Republic
Latvia
Lebanon
Lesotho
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya
Liechtenstein
Lithuania
Luxembourg
Malaysia
Malta
Mauritania
Mexico
Moldova
Monaco
Mongolia
Montenegro
Morocco
Netherlands
New Zealand
Nicaragua
Nigeria
Norway
Oman
Palau
Paraguay
Peru
Philippines
Poland
Portugal
Qatar
Republic of Korea
Romania
Samoa
San Marino
Senegal
Serbia
Singapore
Slovakia
Slovenia
South Africa
Spain
Sudan
Sweden
Switzerland
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
Turkey
Ukraine
United Arab Emirates
United Kingdom
Uruguay

United Nations A/63/635

General Assembly

Distr.: General
22 December 2008

Original: English

Sixty-third session
Agenda item 64 (b)
Promotion and protection of human rights: human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms

Letter dated 18 December 2008 from the Permanent Representatives of Argentina, Brazil, Croatia, France, Gabon, Japan, the Netherlands and Norway to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

We have the pleasure of transmitting a statement on human rights, sexual orientation and gender identity (see annex), signed by Albania, Andorra, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chile, Colombia, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Ecuador, Estonia, Finland, France, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guinea-Bissau, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Mauritius, Mexico, Montenegro, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Paraguay, Poland, Portugal, Romania, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uruguay and Venezuela.

We would appreciate it if the statement, which was read out in plenary meeting today, would be circulated as a document of the sixty-third session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 64 (b).

(*Signed*) Jorge **Argüello**
Permanent Representative of Argentina to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Maria Luiza Ribeiro **Viotti**
Permanent Representative of Brazil to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Neven **Jurica**
Permanent Representative of Croatia to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Jean-Maurice **Ripert**
Permanent Representative of France to the United Nations

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(*Signed*) Emanuel **Issoze-Ngondet**
Permanent Representative of Gabon to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Yukio **Takasu**
Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Frank **Majoor**
Permanent Representative of the Netherlands to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Morten **Wetland**
Permanent Representative of Norway to the United Nations

Annex to the letter dated 18 December 2008 from the Permanent Representatives of Argentina, Brazil, Croatia, France, Gabon, Japan, the Netherlands and Norway to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

[Original: English, French and Spanish]

We have the honour to make this statement on human rights and sexual orientation and gender identity on behalf of [...].

1. We reaffirm the principle of universality of human rights, as enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, whose sixtieth anniversary is celebrated this year, article 1 of which proclaims that "all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights".

2. We reaffirm that everyone is entitled to the enjoyment of human rights without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status, as set out in article 2 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and article 2 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, as well as in article 26 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

3. We reaffirm the principle of non-discrimination, which requires that human rights apply equally to every human being regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity.

4. We are deeply concerned by violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms based on sexual orientation or gender identity.

5. We are also disturbed that violence, harassment, discrimination, exclusion, stigmatization and prejudice are directed against persons in all countries in the world because of sexual orientation or gender identity, and that these practices undermine the integrity and dignity of those subjected to these abuses.

6. We condemn the human rights violations based on sexual orientation or gender identity wherever they occur, in particular the use of the death penalty on this ground, extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, the practice of torture and other cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment or punishment, arbitrary arrest or detention and deprivation of economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to health.

7. We recall the statement in 2006 before the Human Rights Council by fifty-four countries requesting the President of the Council to provide an opportunity, at an appropriate future session of the Council, to discuss these violations.

8. We commend the attention paid to these issues by special procedures of the Human Rights Council and treaty bodies and encourage them to continue to integrate consideration of human rights violations based on sexual orientation or gender identity within their relevant mandates.

9. We welcome the adoption of resolution AG/RES. 2435 (XXXVIII-O/08) entitled "Human Rights, Sexual Orientation, and Gender Identity" by the General Assembly of the Organization of American States during its thirty-eighth session, on 3 June 2008.

10. We call upon all States and relevant international human rights mechanisms to commit to promote and protect the human rights of all persons, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity.

11. We urge States to take all the necessary measures, in particular legislative or administrative, to ensure that sexual orientation or gender identity may under no circumstances be the basis for criminal penalties, in particular executions, arrests or detention.

12. We urge States to ensure that human rights violations based on sexual orientation or gender identity are investigated and perpetrators held accountable and brought to justice.

13. We urge States to ensure adequate protection of human rights defenders, and remove obstacles which prevent them from carrying out their work on issues of human rights and sexual orientation and gender identity.

United Nations A/63/636

General Assembly

Distr.: General
23 December 2008

Original: English

Sixty-third session
Agenda item 49
Sustainable development

Letter dated 19 December 2008 from the Permanent Representatives of Australia, Austria, Belarus, Bulgaria, Denmark, El Salvador, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Namibia, the Philippines, Poland, the Russian Federation, South Africa, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, the United Arab Emirates and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

On behalf of our countries, we have the honour to request the convening at the sixty-third session of the General Assembly of a thematic debate on energy efficiency, energy conservation, and new and renewable sources of energy.

Energy efficiency, energy conservation, and new and renewable sources of energy play a key role in the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals as well as in solving the climate change problem. As the chief deliberative, policymaking and coordinating body of the United Nations, the General Assembly is best positioned to raise awareness, share best experience and contribute to the international discussions on the promotion of sound and sustainable energy practices.

The thematic debate would focus on energy efficiency, energy conservation, and new and renewable energy, in particular on ways to unlock the full potential for the development, deployment and transfer of related technologies and ways to foster international cooperation and partnerships in this area.

We hope that you will give this proposal your favourable consideration and support, and we request that the present letter be circulated as a document of the General Assembly.

(*Signed*) Robert **Hill**
Permanent Representative of Australia
to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Thomas **Mayr-Harting**
Permanent Representative of Austria
to the United Nations

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(*Signed*) Andrei **Dapkiunas**
Permanent Representative of Belarus
to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Carsten **Staur**
Permanent Representative of Denmark
to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Hjálmar W. **Hannesson**
Permanent Representative of Iceland
to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Marty M. **Natalegawa**
Permanent Representative of Indonesia
to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Hilario G. **Davide**, Jr.
Permanent Representative of
the Philippines to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Vitaly I. **Churkin**
Permanent Representative of
the Russian Federation
to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Sirodjidin M. **Aslov**
Permanent Representative of Tajikistan
to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Saeed **Al-Hebsi**
Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the
United Arab Emirates
to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Rayko S. **Raytchev**
Permanent Representative of Bulgaria
to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Carmen Maria **Gallardo Hernández**
Permanent Representative of El Salvador
to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Nirupam **Sen**
Permanent Representative of India
to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Kaire Munionganda **Mbuende**
Permanent Representative of Namibia
to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Andrzej **Towpik**
Permanent Representative of Poland
to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Dumisani Shadrack **Kumalo**
Permanent Representative of
South Africa to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Aksoltan T. **Ataeva**
Permanent Representative of
Turkmenistan to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Julio Rafael **Escalona Ojeda**
Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the
Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela
to the United Nations

United Nations

A/63/637

General Assembly

Distr.: General
30 December 2008

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Sixty-third session
Agenda item 116

Financial reports and audited financial statements, and reports of the Board of Auditors

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Patrick **Chuasoto** (Philippines)

I. Introduction

1. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 19 September 2008, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its sixty-third session, and to allocate to the Fifth Committee, the item entitled:

"Financial reports and audited financial statements, and reports of the Board of Auditors:

"(a) United Nations;

"(b) United Nations peacekeeping operations;

"(c) International Trade Centre UNCTAD/WTO;

"(d) United Nations University;

"(e) Capital master plan;

"(f) United Nations Development Programme;

"(g) United Nations Children's Fund;

"(h) United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East;

"(i) United Nations Institute for Training and Research;

"(j) Voluntary funds administered by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees;

"(k) Fund of the United Nations Environment Programme;

"(l) United Nations Population Fund;

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"(m) United Nations Human Settlements Programme;

"(n) Fund of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme;

"(o) United Nations Office for Project Services;

"(p) International Criminal Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Genocide and Other Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of Rwanda and Rwandan Citizens Responsible for Genocide and Other Such Violations Committed in the Territory of Neighbouring States between 1 January and 31 December 1994;

"(q) International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991".

2. The Fifth Committee considered the item at its 7th and 28th meetings, on 15 October and 23 December. Statements and observations made in the course of the Committee's consideration of the item are reflected in the relevant summary records (A/C.5/63/SR.7 and 28).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Fifth Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Financial reports and audited financial statements for the biennium ended 31 December 2007, and reports of the Board of Auditors on the United Nations,[1] the International Trade Centre UNCTAD/WTO,[2] the United Nations University,[3] the United Nations Development Programme,[4] the United Nations Children's Fund,[5] the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East,[6] the United Nations Institute for Training and Research,[7] the voluntary funds administered by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees,[8] the Fund of the United Nations Environment Programme,[9] the United Nations Population Fund,[10] the United Nations Human Settlements Programme,[11] the Fund of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme,[12] the United Nations Office for Project Services,[13] the International Criminal Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Genocide and Other Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of Rwanda and Rwandan Citizens Responsible for Genocide and Other Such Violations Committed in the Territory of Neighbouring States between 1 January and 31 December 1994[14] and the

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[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-third Session, Supplement No. 5* (A/63/5), vol. I.
[2] Ibid., vol. III.
[3] Ibid., vol. IV.
[4] Ibid., *Supplement No. 5A* and corrigendum (A/63/5/Add.1 and Corr.1).
[5] Ibid., *Supplement No. 5B* and corrigendum (A/63/5/Add.2 and Corr.1).
[6] Ibid., *Supplement No. 5C* (A/63/5/Add.3).
[7] Ibid., *Supplement No. 5D* (A/63/5/Add.4).
[8] Ibid., *Supplement No. 5E* (A/63/5/Add.5).
[9] Ibid., *Supplement No. 5F* (A/63/5/Add.6).
[10] Ibid., *Supplement No. 5G* (A/63/5/Add.7).
[11] Ibid., *Supplement No. 5H* (A/63/5/Add.8).
[12] Ibid., *Supplement No. 5I* (A/63/5/Add.9).
[13] Ibid., *Supplement No. 5J* (A/63/5/Add.10).
[14] Ibid., *Supplement No. 5K* (A/63/5/Add.11).

International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991;[15]

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the recommendations of the Board of Auditors contained in its reports on the United Nations for the biennium ended 31 December 2007 and on the capital master plan for the year ended 31 December 2007 (A/63/327);

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the recommendations of the Board of Auditors on the United Nations funds and programmes for the financial period ended 31 December 2007 (A/63/327/Add.1);

(d) Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the financial reports and audited financial statements and reports of the Board of Auditors for the period ended 31 December 2007 (A/63/474);

(e) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the concise summary of principal findings and conclusions contained in the reports prepared by the Board of Auditors for the General Assembly at its sixty-third session (A/63/169).

4. At the 7th meeting, on 15 October, the Director of External Audit of France and Chairman of the Audit Operations Committee of the Board of Auditors introduced the reports of the Board (see A/C.5/63/SR.7).

II. Consideration of draft resolution A/C.5/63/L.8

5. At its 28th meeting, on 23 December, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "Financial reports and audited financial statements, and reports of the Board of Auditors" (A/C.5/63/L.8), submitted by the Chairman of the Committee on the basis of informal consultations coordinated by the representative of Egypt.

6. At the same meeting, the Secretary of the Committee orally corrected the draft resolution by inserting the words "and without conditions" after the words "and on time" in operative paragraph 8.

7. Also at the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.5/63/L.8, as orally corrected, without a vote (see para. 8).

[15] Ibid., *Supplement No. 5L* (A/63/5/Add.12).

III. Recommendation of the Fifth Committee

8. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Financial reports and audited financial statements, and reports of the Board of Auditors

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 50/222 of 11 April 1996, 51/218 E of 17 June 1997, 52/212 B of 31 March 1998, 53/204 of 18 December 1998, 53/221, section VIII, of 7 April 1999, 54/13 B of 23 December 1999, 55/220 A, B and C of 23 December 2000 and 12 April and 14 June 2001, 57/278 A of 20 December 2002, 60/234 A and B of 23 December 2005 and 30 June 2006, 61/233 A and B of 22 December 2006 and 29 June 2007 and 62/223 A and B of 22 December 2007 and 20 June 2008,

Recalling also all its resolutions related to the languages of the United Nations as well as on human resources management,

Emphasizing the need to ensure the full implementation of the Staff Regulations and Rules of the United Nations,

Having considered the financial reports and audited financial statements and the reports and audit opinions of the Board of Auditors for the period ended 31 December 2007 on the United Nations,[1] the International Trade Centre UNCTAD/WTO,[2] the United Nations University,[3] the United Nations Development Programme,[4] the United Nations Children's Fund,[5] the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East,[6] the United Nations Institute for Training and Research,[7] the voluntary funds administered by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees,[8] the Fund of the United Nations Environment Programme,[9] the United Nations Population Fund,[10] the United Nations Human Settlements Programme,[11] the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime,[12] the United Nations Office for Project Services,[13] the International Criminal Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Genocide and Other Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of Rwanda and Rwandan Citizens Responsible for Genocide and Other Such Violations Committed in the Territory of Neighbouring States between 1 January and 31 December 1994[14]

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[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-third Session, Supplement No. 5* (A/63/5), vol. I.
[2] Ibid., vol. III.
[3] Ibid., vol. IV.
[4] Ibid., *Supplement No. 5A* and corrigendum (A/63/5/Add.1) and Corr.1.
[5] Ibid., *Supplement No. 5B* and corrigendum (A/63/5/Add.2) and Corr.1.
[6] Ibid., *Supplement No. 5C* (A/63/5/Add.3).
[7] Ibid., *Supplement No. 5D* (A/63/5/Add.4).
[8] Ibid., *Supplement No. 5E* (A/63/5/Add.5).
[9] Ibid., *Supplement No. 5F* (A/63/5/Add.6).
[10] Ibid., *Supplement No. 5G* (A/63/5/Add.7).
[11] Ibid., *Supplement No. 5H* (A/63/5/Add.8).
[12] Ibid., *Supplement No. 5I* (A/63/5/Add.9).
[13] Ibid., *Supplement No. 5J* (A/63/5/Add.10).
[14] Ibid., *Supplement No. 5K* (A/63/5/Add.11).

and the International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991,[15] the concise summary of principal findings and conclusions contained in the reports prepared by the Board of Auditors,[16] the reports of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the recommendations of the Board of Auditors on the accounts of the United Nations for the biennium ended 31 December 2007, on the capital master plan for the year ended 31 December 2007 and on the financial statements of the funds and programmes of the United Nations for the financial period ended 31 December 2007[17] and the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[18]

1. *Accepts* the financial reports and audited financial statements and the reports and audit opinions of the Board of Auditors for the above-mentioned organizations;[1-15]

2. *Approves* the recommendations and conclusions contained in the reports of the Board of Auditors;

3. *Endorses* the observations and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;[18]

4. *Emphasizes* that the Board of Auditors shall be completely independent and solely responsible for the conduct of the audit;

5. *Decides* to consider further the reports of the Board of Auditors on the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda and the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia under the respective agenda items relating to the Tribunals;

6. *Commends* the Board of Auditors for the superior quality of its reports, in particular with respect to its comments on the management of resources and improving the presentation of financial statements;

7. *Recalls* the statute of the International Civil Service Commission[19] and the central role of the Commission and the General Assembly in the regulation and coordination of the conditions of service of the United Nations common system;

8. *Also recalls* its resolution 61/233 B, in which it reiterated that the issue of outstanding assessed contributions is a policy matter of the General Assembly, and urges all Member States to make every possible effort to ensure the payment of their assessed contributions in full and on time;

9. *Stresses* that the employment of staff shall continue to be carried out in strict accordance with Article 101 of the Charter of the United Nations and in line with the relevant provisions of its resolutions;

10. *Takes note* of the reports of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the recommendations of the Board of Auditors on the accounts of the United Nations for the biennium ended 31 December 2007, on the capital master plan for the year ended 31 December 2007 and on the financial statements of the funds and

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[15] Ibid., *Supplement No. 5L* (A/63/5/Add.12).

[16] See A/63/169.

[17] A/63/327 and Add.1.

[18] A/63/474.

[19] Resolution 3357 (XXIX), annex.

programmes of the United Nations for the financial period ended 31 December 2007,[17] and also takes note of the improvements made on the implementation rate;

11. *Reiterates its request* to the Secretary-General and the executive heads of the funds and programmes of the United Nations to ensure full implementation of the recommendations of the Board of Auditors and the related recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions in a prompt and timely manner and to hold programme managers accountable for non-implementation of the recommendations;

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide in his reports on the implementation of the recommendations of the Board of Auditors on the accounts of the United Nations as well as on the financial statements of its funds and programmes a full explanation for the delays in the implementation of the recommendations of the Board, in particular those recommendations not yet fully implemented which are two or more years old;

13. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to indicate in future reports an expected time frame for the implementation of the recommendations of the Board of Auditors, the priorities for their implementation and the office holders to be held accountable.

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General Assembly

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Pattern of conferences

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Patrick **Chuasoto** (Philippines)

I. Introduction

1. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 19 September 2008, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its sixty-third session the item entitled "Pattern of conferences" and to allocate it to the Fifth Committee.

2. The Fifth Committee considered the item at its 14th and 28th meetings, on 31 October and 23 December 2008. Statements and observations made in the course of the Committee's consideration of the item are reflected in the relevant summary records (A/C.5/63/SR.14 and 28).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Committee on Conferences;[1]

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on the pattern of conferences (A/63/119 and Corr.1);

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on the draft revised calendar of conferences and meetings for 2009 (A/63/119/Add.1);

(d) Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the existing special arrangements governing the recruitment of temporary assistance staff in the language services (A/63/94);

(e) Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/63/509).

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-third Session, Supplement No. 32* (A/63/32).

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II. Consideration of draft resolution A/C.5/63/L.15

4. At its 28th meeting, on 23 December, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "Pattern of conferences" (A/C.5/63/L.15), submitted by the Chairman on the basis of informal consultations coordinated by the representative of Argentina.

5. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.5/63/L.15 without a vote (see para. 6).

III. Recommendation of the Fifth Committee

6. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Pattern of conferences

The General Assembly,

Recalling its relevant resolutions, including resolutions 40/243 of 18 December 1985, 41/213 of 19 December 1986, 43/222 A to E of 21 December 1988, 51/211 A to E of 18 December 1996, 52/214 of 22 December 1997, 53/208 A to E of 18 December 1998, 54/248 of 23 December 1999, 55/222 of 23 December 2000, 56/242 of 24 December 2001, 56/254 D of 27 March 2002, 56/262 of 15 February 2002, 56/287 of 27 June 2002, 57/283 A of 20 December 2002, 57/283 B of 15 April 2003, 58/250 of 23 December 2003, 59/265 of 23 December 2004, 60/236 A of 23 December 2005, 60/236 B of 8 May 2006, 61/236 of 22 December 2006 and 62/225 of 22 December 2007,

Reaffirming its resolution 42/207 C of 11 December 1987, in which it requested the Secretary-General to ensure the equal treatment of the official languages of the United Nations,

Having considered the report of the Committee on Conferences for 2008,[1] the relevant reports of the Secretary-General[2] and the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the audit of the existing special arrangements governing the recruitment of temporary assistance staff in the language services across the four main duty stations,[3]

Having also considered the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[4]

Reaffirming the pertinent provisions relating to conference services in its resolutions on multilingualism, in particular in resolution 61/266 of 16 May 2007,

I

Calendar of conferences and meetings

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Committee on Conferences for 2008;[1]

2. *Approves* the draft revised calendar of conferences and meetings of the United Nations for 2009, as submitted by the Committee on Conferences,[5] taking into account the observations of the Committee and subject to the provisions of the present resolution;

3. *Authorizes* the Committee on Conferences to make any adjustments to the calendar of conferences and meetings for 2009 that may become necessary as a

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[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-third Session, Supplement No. 32* (A/63/32).

[2] A/63/119 and Corr.1, and Add.1.

[3] A/63/94.

[4] A/63/509.

[5] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-third Session, Supplement No. 32* (A/63/32), annex II.

result of actions and decisions taken by the General Assembly at its sixty-third session;

4. *Notes with satisfaction* that the Secretariat has taken into account the arrangements referred to in General Assembly resolutions 53/208 A, 54/248, 55/222, 56/242, 57/283 B, 58/250, 59/265, 60/236 A, 61/236 and 62/225 concerning Orthodox Good Friday and the official holidays of Eid al-Fitr and Eid al-Adha, and requests all intergovernmental bodies to observe those decisions when planning their meetings;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that any modification to the calendar of conferences and meetings is implemented strictly in accordance with the mandate of the Committee on Conferences and other relevant resolutions of the General Assembly;

6. *Notes* that accurate, timely and consistent information provided to the Fifth Committee during its informal consultations facilitates the decision-making process in the Committee;

II

A. Utilization of conference-servicing resources

1. *Reaffirms* the practice that, in the use of conference rooms, priority must be given to the meetings of Member States;

2. *Notes* that the overall utilization factor at the four main duty stations remained at 83 per cent in 2007, the same as in 2006, which is above the established benchmark of 80 per cent;

3. *Welcomes* the steps taken by those bodies that have adjusted their programmes of work in order to achieve the optimum utilization of conference-servicing resources, and requests the Committee on Conferences to continue consultations with the secretariats and bureaux of bodies that underutilize their conference-servicing resources;

4. *Recognizes* that late starts and unplanned early endings seriously affect the bodies' utilization factor owing to the amount of time lost, and invites the secretariats and bureaux of bodies to pay adequate attention to avoiding late starts and unplanned early endings;

5. *Notes* that the percentage of meetings held by the bodies entitled to meet "as required" that were provided with interpretation services in New York in 2007 as 88 per cent, and requests the Secretary-General to continue to report on the provision of conference services to these bodies through the Committee on Conferences;

6. *Recognizes* the importance of meetings of regional and other major groupings of Member States for the smooth functioning of the sessions of intergovernmental bodies, and requests the Secretary-General to ensure that, as far as possible, all requests for conference services for the meetings of regional and other major groupings of Member States are met;

7. *Acknowledges with appreciation* the improvement in the percentage of meetings held by regional and other major groupings of Member States that were provided with interpretation services at the four main duty stations, which increased

to 84 per cent in 2007 from 76 per cent in 2006, and requests the Secretary-General to continue to employ innovative means to address the difficulties experienced by Member States owing to the lack of conference services for some meetings of regional and other major groupings of Member States and to report thereon to the General Assembly through the Committee on Conferences;

8. *Once again urges* intergovernmental bodies to spare no effort at the planning stage to take into account the meetings of regional and other major groupings of Member States, to make provision for such meetings in their programmes of work and to notify conference services, well in advance, of any cancellations so that unutilized conference-servicing resources may, to the extent possible, be reassigned to meetings of regional and other major groupings of Member States;

9. *Notes with satisfaction* that, in accordance with several General Assembly resolutions, including resolution 61/236, section II.A, paragraph 9, in conformity with the headquarters rule, all meetings of Nairobi-based United Nations bodies were held in Nairobi in 2007, and requests the Secretary-General to report thereon to the Assembly at its sixty-fourth session through the Committee on Conferences;

10. *Notes with appreciation* ongoing promotional efforts and initiatives undertaken by the management of the United Nations conference centre of the Economic Commission for Africa, which led to a continued upward trend in utilization of the premises in 2007;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to explore means to increase the utilization of the United Nations conference centre of the Economic Commission for Africa, bearing in mind the headquarters minimum operating security standards, and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session;

12. *Calls upon* the Secretary-General and Member States to adhere to the guidelines and procedures contained in the administrative instruction for the authorization of the use of United Nations premises for meetings, conferences, special events and exhibits;[6]

13. *Emphasizes* that such meetings, conferences, special events and exhibits must be consistent with the purposes and principles of the United Nations;

14. *Regrets* the voting incident in the seventh meeting of the Fourth Committee, and requests the Secretary-General to ensure prompt and effective communication between the Secretariat and members of its General Committee;

15. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report on the measures taken to avoid the recurrence of the above-mentioned situation in his next annual report on the pattern of conferences;

B. Impact of the capital master plan, strategy IV (phased approach) on meetings held at Headquarters during its implementation

1. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that implementation of the capital master plan, including the temporary relocation of conference-servicing staff to a swing space, will not compromise the quality of conference services provided to

[6] ST/AI/416.

Member States in the six official languages and the equal treatment of the language services, which should be provided with equally favourable working conditions and resources, with a view to receiving the maximum quality of services;

2. *Requests* all meeting requesters and organizers to liaise closely with the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management of the Secretariat on all matters related to the scheduling of meetings to allow maximum predictability in coordinating activities at Headquarters during the construction period;

3. *Requests* the Committee on Conferences to keep the matter under constant review, and requests the Secretary-General to report regularly to the Committee on matters pertaining to the calendar of conferences and meetings of the United Nations during the construction period;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to provide adequate information technology support for conference services, within the existing resources of the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management, in order to ensure their seamless operation throughout the implementation of the capital master plan;

5. *Notes* that during the implementation of the capital master plan, a part of the conference-servicing staff and information technology resources of the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management will be temporarily relocated to a swing space, and requests the Secretary-General to continue to provide adequate support, within the existing resources of the Department, to ensure continued maintenance of the information technology facilities of the Department, implementation of the global information technology initiative and delivery of quality conference services;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to consult Member States on initiatives that affect the utilization of conference services and conference facilities;

III
Integrated global management

1. *Notes with appreciation* the progress achieved in the implementation of the global information technology project, aimed at integrating, across duty stations, information technology into meetings management and documentation-processing systems, and the global approach to harmonizing standards and information technology and sharing good practices and technological achievements among conference services at the four main duty stations;

2. *Also notes with appreciation* the initiatives undertaken in the context of integrated global management aimed at streamlining procedures, achieving economies of scale and improving the quality of conference services, and in this regard stresses the importance of ensuring equal treatment of conference-servicing staff as well as the principle of equal grade for equal work at the four main duty stations;

3. *Emphasizes* that the major goals of the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management are to provide high-quality documents in a timely manner in all official languages in accordance with established regulations, as well as high-quality conference services to Member States at all duty stations, and to

achieve those aims as efficiently and cost-effectively as possible, in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to include in his next report on the pattern of conferences information about the financial savings achieved through implementation of the integrated global management projects;

5. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that all language services are given equal treatment and are provided with equally favourable working conditions and resources, with a view to achieving maximum quality of those services, with full respect for the specificities of the six official languages and taking into account their respective workloads;

6. *Reiterates* the need for the Secretary-General to ensure the compatibility of technologies used in all duty stations and to ensure that they are user-friendly in all official languages;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to complete the task of uploading all important older United Nations documents onto the United Nations website in all six official languages on a priority basis, so that these archives are also available to Member States through that medium;

8. *Reiterates* that the satisfaction of Member States is a key performance indicator in conference management and conference services;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to ensure that measures taken by the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management to seek the evaluation by Member States of the quality of the conference services provided to them, as a key performance indicator of the Department, provide equal opportunities to Member States to present their evaluations in the six official languages of the United Nations and are in full compliance with relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, and requests the Secretary-General to report to the Assembly, through the Committee on Conferences, on progress made in this regard;

10. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to continue to explore best practices and techniques in client satisfaction evaluations and to report on a regular basis to the General Assembly on the results achieved;

11. *Welcomes* the efforts made by the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management to seek the evaluation by Member States of the quality of the conference services provided to them, and requests the Secretary-General to continue to explore innovative ways to systematically capture and analyse feedback from Member States and committee chairpersons and secretaries on the quality of conference services and to report thereon to the General Assembly through the Committee on Conferences;

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to keep the General Assembly apprised of progress made in integrated global management;

13. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that the administrative policies, practices and procedures of conference services developed on the basis of recommendations of the task forces are in full compliance with relevant General Assembly resolutions;

IV
Documentation and publication-related matters

1. *Emphasizes* the paramount importance of the equality of the six official languages of the United Nations;

2. *Reaffirms* that the Fifth Committee is the appropriate Main Committee of the General Assembly entrusted with responsibilities for administrative and budgetary matters;

3. *Stresses* that matters related to conference management, including documentation, fall within the purview of the Fifth Committee;

4. *Reiterates with concern its request* to the Secretary-General to ensure that the rules concerning the simultaneous distribution of documents in all six official languages are strictly respected as regards both the distribution of printed copies and the posting of parliamentary documentation on the Official Document System and the United Nations website, in keeping with section III, paragraph 5, of its resolution 55/222;

5. *Reaffirms* its decision in section III, paragraph 9, of its resolution 59/265 that the issuance of documents in all six official languages on planning, budgetary and administrative matters requiring urgent consideration by the General Assembly shall be accorded priority;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to improve the documents planning process to ensure that the Fifth Committee receives, in the six official languages, all documents necessary for its consideration of a particular item, including reports of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, within the established time limits;

7. *Reiterates its request* to the Secretary-General to direct all departments of the Secretariat to include the following elements in their reports:

(a) Summary of the report;

(b) Consolidated conclusions, recommendations and other proposed actions;

(c) Relevant background information;

8. *Reiterates its request* that all documents submitted to legislative organs by the Secretariat and intergovernmental and expert bodies for consideration and action have conclusions and recommendations in bold print;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to take steps to improve the quality and accuracy of meeting records in all six official languages through full reliance in the preparation and translation of those records on sound recordings and written texts of statements as they were delivered in the original languages;

10. *Expresses its deep concern* at the unprecedented high level of late submission of documentation by author departments, which, in turn, has a negative impact on the functioning of intergovernmental bodies, and requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session, through the Committee on Conferences, on urgent measures taken to improve overall timely submission, in particular by those submitting entities with submission compliance below 90 per cent for three years in a row;

11. *Notes with concern* the unprecedented delays in the issuance of documents in 2008, which heavily impacted the work of the General Assembly, and requests the Secretary-General to elaborate more effective accountability measures to ensure that both authors and their senior managers provide for the timely issuance of documents in all six official languages and to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session through the Committee on Conferences;

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to enhance his efforts to address the problem cited in paragraph 10 above, particularly concerning documentation considered at the second resumed session of the Fifth Committee during the sixty-second session of the General Assembly, including convening the task force formed to study this matter, to provide an interim report on documentation concerning peacekeeping financing, to report on the results of these consultations and actions taken to solve this problem to the General Assembly, through the Committee on Conferences at its organizational session in 2009, in order for the Fifth Committee to consider the report at its second resumed session, and to provide a comprehensive report to the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session through the Committee on Conferences;

13. *Recognizes* the increase of the workload of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and the growing volume of reports and other documents before it, decides to authorize the Advisory Committee to meet for two additional weeks in 2009, on an exceptional basis, invites the Advisory Committee to continue considering how to better address its workload, and decides to discuss the number of weeks in a session of the Advisory Committee in the context of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2010-2011;

14. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report on the associated expenditures in the second performance report on the programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009;

15. *Stresses* the importance of the concordance principle in order to ensure equally valid texts of resolutions in all six official languages;

16. *Recalls*, section C, paragraph 12, of its resolution 54/248 and section III, paragraph 13, of its resolution 55/222, and reiterates its request to the Secretary-General to publish, prior to its sixty-fourth session, the updated version of the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations[7] in the six official languages of the Organization;

V

Translation and interpretation-related matters

1. *Recalls* rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to redouble his efforts to ensure the highest quality of interpretation and translation services in all six official languages;

3. *Reiterates its request* that the Secretary-General make sure that the terminology used in the translation and interpretation services reflects the latest linguistic norms and terminology of the official languages in order to ensure the highest quality;

4. *Takes note* of the recommendations provided by the Office of Internal Oversight Services of the Secretariat in its report,[3] and requests the Secretary-

[7] ST/SGB/2003/7.

General to ensure their full implementation and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session through the Committee on Conferences;

5. *Reaffirms* section IV, paragraph 3, of its resolution 59/265, section IV, paragraph 4, of its resolution 60/236 B and section V, paragraph 3, of its resolution 61/236, and reiterates its request that the Secretary-General, when recruiting temporary assistance in the language services, ensure that all language services are given equal treatment and are provided with equally favourable working conditions and resources, with a view to achieving maximum quality of their services, with full respect for the specificities of each of the six official languages and taking into account their respective workloads;

6. *Expresses continued concern* at the high vacancy rate in the interpretation and translation services at the United Nations Office at Nairobi, and requests the Secretary-General to address this as a matter of priority through, inter alia, assistance from Member States in advertising and facilitating the conduct of competitive examinations to fill these language vacancies;

7. *Notes with appreciation* the measures taken by the Secretariat to fill current and future vacancies at the United Nations Office at Nairobi and the information contained in paragraph 107 of the report of the Secretary-General on the pattern of conferences,[8] and requests the Secretary-General to consider further measures aimed at decreasing the vacancy rates in Nairobi and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session;

8. *Also notes with appreciation* the initiative to seek a long-term solution to the high vacancy rates in language services in the United Nations Office at Nairobi by engaging the services of a consultant to explore the possibilities of providing enhanced training programmes to potential professional translators and interpreters on the African continent, and requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session on efforts in this regard;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to examine all aspects concerning recruitment and retention of language staff at the United Nations Office at Nairobi, to make recommendations in this regard and to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session through the Committee on Conferences;

10. *Recognizes* the acute problems faced by the United Nations Office at Geneva in providing conference services as required, as described by the Secretary-General in paragraph 103 of his report on the pattern of conferences,[8] and in this connection requests the Secretary-General to address these problems and to make all efforts to meet requirements in the context of the latest surge of meetings;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to seek a more effective strategy to fill current and future language post vacancies at all duty stations in a timely manner, takes note of paragraph 92 of the report of the Secretary-General on the pattern of conferences,[8] and also requests the Secretary-General to hold the competitive examinations for the recruitment of language staff referred to in that paragraph, as well as other examinations beyond 2009, well in advance so as to fill current and future language post vacancies at all duty stations in a timely manner, and to inform the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session of efforts in this regard;

[8] A/63/119 and Corr.1.

12. *Welcomes* the steps taken by the Secretary-General to address more effectively the demographic situation and the issue of succession planning, in particular by resorting to temporary assistance in dealing with acute needs, as well as enhancing internal and external training programmes, developing staff exchange programmes among organizations and participating in outreach to institutions that train language staff for international organizations, and requests him to continue to take such measures;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue exploring the possibility of introducing a traineeship programme in order to attract and train young professionals for a career in the language services of the United Nations;

14. *Notes with concern* the challenges presented by the demographic situation in the language services, as described in paragraphs 91 to 95 of the report of the Secretary-General;[8]

15. *Notes* that the intention of the General Assembly, in adopting section VI, paragraph 1, of its resolution 57/305 of 15 April 2003, was to increase the availability of retired language staff for employment with the language services, and requests the Secretary-General to clarify and in turn implement the provisions of that paragraph concerning the ceiling on United Nations earnings of United Nations language staff retirees;

16. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to seek evaluation by Member States of the quality of the conference services provided to them, including through the language-specific informational meetings held twice a year, and to ensure that such measures provide equal opportunities to Member States to present their evaluations in the six official languages of the United Nations and are in full compliance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly;

17. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to continue to improve the accuracy of translation of documents into the six official languages, giving particular significance to the quality of translation;

18. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to take the steps necessary to enhance translation quality in all six official languages, in particular for contractual translation, and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session;

19. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide, at all duty stations, adequate staff at the appropriate level, with a view to ensuring appropriate quality control for external translation, with due consideration of the principle of equal grade for equal work;

20. *Takes note* of the information on the impact of freelance recruitment on the quality of interpretation at all duty stations contained in paragraphs 101 to 105 of the report of the Secretary-General,[8] and requests the Secretary-General to report on the issue to the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session through the Committee on Conferences;

21. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session on the experience, lessons learned and best practices of the main duty stations in performing quality control of contractual translations, including on requirements relating to the number and appropriate level of the staff needed to carry out this function.